

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

before sending electronic money data on an amount of electronic money for payment of information processing of processing data to a processing system, issuing, by an electronic money issuer, an amount of electronic money for information processing of the processing data and determining that the amount of the issued money is exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution;

receiving at a ~~processing~~ printing-processing system, through a network, data including both ~~the~~ the processing data to be information-processed and ~~the~~ the electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an ~~the~~ the amount of ~~the issued~~ the issued electronic money that is necessary for ~~the payment for of~~ information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer ~~for determining whether the electronic money data is valid~~, wherein the processing data and the electronic money data are attached together;

making a request ~~transmitting~~ transmitting, by said ~~processing printing~~ processing printing system, a part or all of the electronic money data to the electronic money issuer ~~to for determine confirming~~ whether the received amount of the issued electronic money data is valid or not; and

when the ~~received amount of the issued~~ electronic money data is confirmed to be valid, automatically starting ~~the processing of the processing data to be information-processed;~~ at said processing printing system.

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

before sending electronic money data on an amount of electronic money for payment of information processing of processing data to a processing system, issuing, by an electronic money issuer, an amount of electronic money for information processing of the processing data and determining that the amount of the issued money is exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution;

receiving at ~~at~~ the printing processing system, through a network, ~~both a) the processing data to be information-processed and b) the electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an the amount of the issued electronic money that is necessary for the payment for of information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid,~~ wherein the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data are attached together;

relating, at said processing printing system, the received data to be information-processed with the electronic money data by which payment for information processing is made;

~~making a request~~ transmitting, by said processing printing system, a part or all of the electronic money data to the electronic money issuer to determine

~~for determining whether the received amount of the issued~~ electronic money data is valid ~~or not~~; and

when the ~~received amount of the issued~~ electronic money data is confirmed to be valid, performing the processing of the data to be information-processed ~~which is related to the validated electronic money data~~, at said processing printing system.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic payment method comprising the steps of:

before sending electronic money data on an amount of electronic money for payment of information processing of processing data to a processing system, issuing, by an electronic money issuer, an amount of electronic money for information processing of the processing data and determining that the amount of the issued money is exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution;

simultaneously receiving at ~~a~~the printing processing system, through a network, the processing data to be information-processed attached together with the electronic money data ~~of an electronic money issuer including an~~the amount of the issued electronic money ~~that is necessary for the payment for~~of information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer ~~for determining whether the electronic money data is valid;~~

associating, ~~at said printing system,~~ the processing data to be information-processed with the electronic money data by which payment for information processing is made;

~~making a request~~transmitting, by said processing printing system, a
part or all of the electronic money data to the electronic money issuer to determine
whether the amount of the issued ~~received~~ electronic money data is valid ~~or not~~; and
when the amount of the issued ~~received~~ electronic money data is
confirmed to be valid, starting the processing of the data ~~which is associated with the~~
~~validated electronic money data~~, at said ~~printing~~ processing system.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for making payment by electronic
money comprising:

a user side subsystem including a user's terminal,
an electronic money issuer side subsystem including an electronic
money issuing server, and
a processor side subsystem including a data processor that performs a
processing based on processing request data from the user,
wherein the user side subsystem, the electronic money issuer side
subsystem and the processor side subsystem are connected to one another through
a network,

wherein the user side subsystem transmits ~~both~~ the processing request
data and electronic money data of the electronic money issuer including an amount
of electronic money issued by the electronic money issuer side subsystem ~~that is~~
~~necessary for payment for~~ of processing of the processing request data and
information on the electronic money issuer ~~for determining whether the electronic~~
~~money data is valid~~, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money
data are attached together and transmitted to the processor side subsystem,

the amount of the issued electronic money has been determined to be
exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution before the user side
subsystem transmission;

the processor side subsystem transmits the electronic money data to
the electronic money issuer side subsystem,

the electronic money issuer side system determines whether the
amount of the issued electronic money data is valid or not, and

the processor side subsystem performs the processing based on the
processing request data in accordance with a result of the validation of the amount of
the issued electronic money data validation and transmits a request for payment for
the processing to the electronic money issuer side subsystem.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic money ~~processor~~ processing
system comprising:

an electronic money issuing member which before sending electronic money
data on an amount of electronic money for payment of information processing of
processing request data, issues, by an electronic money issuer, an amount of
electronic money for information processing of the processing request data and
receives determination that the amount of the issued money is exchangeable with
actual currency by a payment institution;

a receiving member which receives both a) the processing request data
transmitted from a user through a network and based on which a processing
requested by the user is executed, and b) the electronic money data of ~~an~~ the
electronic money issuer transmitted from the user through the network and including

~~an the amount of the issued~~ electronic money ~~that is necessary~~ for payment for processing said processing request data and ~~issued by an electronic money issuer~~ and information on the electronic money issuer ~~for determining whether the electronic money data is valid~~, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are attached together;

a memory in which the processing request data received by the receiving member is stored;

a transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the amount of the issued electronic money data is valid ~~or not~~; and

an execution controller which controls execution of the processing based on the processing request data corresponding to the electronic money data and stored in the memory in accordance with the result of the validation of the amount of the issued electronic money ~~a result of the check of validity of the electronic money data~~.

6. (Previously Presented) An electronic money processor as claimed in claim 5, wherein when the electronic money data is not confirmed to be valid, said transmitter transmits warning information that the electronic money data is not confirmed to be valid, to the user who transmitted the electronic money data.

7. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising the electronic money processor as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

an image forming portion in which execution of the processing is based on the control of the processing request data by the execution control means of the electronic money processor.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming ~~apparatus~~processing system comprising:

an electronic money issuing member which before sending electronic money data on an amount of electronic money for payment of information processing of print data, issues, by an electronic money issuer, an amount of electronic money for information processing of the print data and receives determination that the amount of the issued money is exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution

a receiving member which receives both a) the print data transmitted from a user through a network, and b) the electronic money data of an electronic money issuer corresponding to the print data transmitted from the user through the network and including ~~an~~ the amount of the issued electronic money issued by an electronic money issuer that is necessary for the payment for of processing said print data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the print data and electronic money data are attached together;

a transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money data is valid ~~or not~~; and

an image forming portion which processes the print data in accordance with a result of the check of validity of the electronic money data.

9. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 1, wherein the processing data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

10. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 2, wherein the data to be information-processed and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

11. (Previously Presented) An electronic payment method according to claim 3, wherein the data to be information-processed and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

12. (Previously Presented) A system for making payment according to claim 4, wherein the processing request data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

13. (Previously Presented) An electronic money processor according to claim 5, wherein the processing request data and electronic money data are

attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

14. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the print data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:
receiving at a printing-processing system, through a network, job data including processing data to be information-processed and electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of issued electronic money ~~that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer, for determining whether the electronic money data is valid;~~

separating, by said processing printing system, the processing data and the electronic money data;

~~making a request~~transmitting, at said processing printing system, a part or all of the electronic money data to the electronic money issuer to determine for determining whether the the amount of the issued electronic money data is valid; and

when the ~~received amount of the issued~~ received amount of the issued electronic money data is confirmed to be valid, automatically starting the processing of the processing data to be information-processed at said processing printing system.

16. (Previously Presented) The electronic payment method according to claim 3, comprising:

associating the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data by designating a group identifier common to both the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data; and

separating the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data.

17. (Previously Presented) The system for making payment according to claim 4, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are designated by a group identifier common to both the processing request data and the electronic money data to allow separate processing of the processing request data and the electronic money data.

18. (Previously Presented) The electronic money processor according to claim 5, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are designated by a group identifier common to both the processing request data and the electronic money data to allow separate processing of the processing request data and the electronic money data.

19. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the print data and the electronic money data are designated by a group identifier common to both the print data and the electronic money data to allow separate processing of the print data and the electronic money data.

20. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 15, wherein the processing data and the electronic money data are related by a group identifier common to both the processing data and the electronic money data.